



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting, City Hall
Minutes
February 7, 2013 6:30-8:30 pm

Attendance:

Julie Noble, Chair
Lillian Childress
Casey Schwarz
Gregg Swanzey
Diane Bonavita
Karen Corey
Emilie Hauser

Guests:

Richard Kelder

Welcome and Call to Order: 6:42 pm

There was no public comment.

Minutes: The following amendments were made to the January 2013 CAC minutes: (1) The committee chair will serve for one year, not two (under the heading of CAC Membership), (2) The CAC is aiming to create conservation guidelines for the Planning Department, not a planning guide (under the heading of 2013 Goals), and (3) The Climate Smart Task Force is meeting with VHB to discuss how to prioritize Climate Action Plan recommendations (under the heading Climate Smart Task Force). C. Schwarz moved to accept the minutes with amendments, and G. Swanzey seconded. Motion carried 8-0.

Old Business:

1) Membership

Julie reminded CAC members to send her pictures and bios to put on the website.

2) Open Space/ NRI Committee

Emilie told the CAC about what NRI's are and what they can be. NRIs can be anything the community wants them to be, but if the NRI is to become a conservation board, there are specific requirements such as a detailed inventory of open spaces, map, and list of prioritized territories the board wants to acquire. The NRI must also be approved, and it must be decided by the city council if the group is to become a formal planning board. The CAC decided that now, it is best for the Open Space/NRI Committee to focus on the more short term goal of getting something into the comprehensive plan, such as a prioritized inventory of open spaces, rather than the long term goal of becoming a conservation board. It was then discussed what sort of Open Space and NRI studies the CAC would like to acquire, how these can be prioritized, and who can help the CAC do such a task. The use of existing studies, acquiring of grants, and GIS mapping were all discussed as possible ways to help facilitate the process. The CAC did not come to any decisive conclusions on a plan of action, but Julie suggested Emilie chair the Open Space/ NRI committee as a theater for this discussion.

3) Year End Report

Julie described the scope and purpose of the CAC's year-end report, and asked CAC members if they had anything to contribute.

New Business

1) Planning Board

The CAC was shocked at the Planning Board's negative declaration of the Kingston Meadows proposal, (which by definition means that the action will not result in a significant adverse environmental impact and such that no EIS will be prepared). The Kingston CAC continues to ardently oppose the Kingston Meadows project. The CAC has decided to wait and see how the county proceeds, and if the developers do another environmental assessment form before taking any additional formal action.

2) Riverkeeper Sweep

Riverkeeper has asked the Kingston CAC to organize a river cleanup event on Saturday May 11. Although the CAC supports this project and will happily show up and help, it was decided that the CAC will not organize the event.

Updates/ Reports

1) Kingston Waterfront Flooding Task Force

Kingston Waterfront Flooding Task Force is working to create a plan and recommendations to combat flooding and protect businesses at the Kingston Waterfront. They last met on December 6, and their next meetings will be on February 12 and March 12. These meetings will discuss actions people can take to combat sea level rise and to create a model of how people can adapt to sea level rise and loss of property. These meetings are open to the public.

2) Climate Action Task Force

The CAC discussed creating an outreach list for potential members of the Climate Smart Task Force. Julie let the CAC know that she is now on the NYS Climate Smart Certification Committee.

3) Facebook Postings

Finding more "followers" for the CAC Facebook page was discussed. Possible strategies included inviting more people to like it, and generating more (and more relevant) content.

4) Public Safety

The CAC discussed encouraging the Public Safety Committee to support public transportation, especially from Kingston to the Hudson Valley Mall.

5) Environmental Management Council

It was reported that the Ulster County Department of the Environment put together a sustainability guide which puts together all resolutions the county government has passed pertaining to sustainability in one place. It was also reported the city received a grant to create a watershed management plan for the Rondout to deal with tributaries and runoff.

NEXT MEETING: March 7, 2013, 6:30- 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Lillian Childress